

**Minutes**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**February 21, 2009**  
**9:30 – 11:30**

**In Attendance:** Bill Collins, Lori Kay, Sara Fraunces, Lisa Keller,  
Mary Ellen Stives

**Absent:** Rigoberto Zavala

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed, and Sara asked why the review of the by-laws was included on the agenda. Mary Ellen suggested the committee might want to review them to see if there are any sections that should be updated, especially concerning the nominating process. Sara was of the opinion that they are sufficient as written, but it was agreed that Mary Ellen would obtain several other Area Board by-laws for review. It was suggested that Mary Ellen obtain several other Area Board By-laws for review. (Post meeting note: By-laws have been obtained from Area Board 5, 9, and 10, so members will review them and address this item at the executive committee meeting on April 18).

**Legislative Visit Information:** Mary Ellen passed around the packet of information that the Legislative workgroup put together at the meeting on Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Legislators have been contacted, and some meetings have already been scheduled. There will be a summary of legislative visit information provided at the next Board of Directors meeting. Lisa inquired if there was any way to find out how many individuals with disabilities live in each district, so Mary Ellen said she would explore ways to gather this data. Sara requested that board members be informed of the various visits. To date, members who live in the district of the legislator have been asked to attend, as well as those individuals who attended the initial meeting. There are some situations where neither a staff member nor a board member lives in a district, in which case Mary Ellen will try to include a community member or consumer from that district in the visit.

**Review By-Laws:** Deferred to April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Future Speakers for Board Meetings:** It was agreed that Maureen Carasiti would be asked to present at the March 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting regarding the REACH (Registry to End Abusive Caregiving Hiring) Project. There is legislation being carried by Marty Block, and Maureen would like Area Board XIII to support this. The board will decide at that meeting whether or not to take a position.

Some other suggested topics included inviting Disability Rights California (formerly Protection & Advocacy) to present on their recent report, as well as inform the public on what types of advocacy cases they will take, what they don't take, etc. It was also suggested that someone from the County Office of Education be invited, a SELPA representative, someone to discuss budget issues, and perhaps the Public Authority (IHSS). There will be a questionnaire included in the March 19<sup>th</sup> Board packet that is sent for board members to express their areas of interest on speakers suggested, as well as any other topics of interest.

Sara requested that someone from the San Diego Regional Center provide an update at each of our Board meetings. Mary Ellen will follow-up with Carlos on this request.

**Review Committees – Chairs – Imperial Valley:** Bill would like to schedule an evening meeting in Imperial Valley to decide what the nature of a committee in that area will be. Robbin Kulek will be asked by Bill to chair the Autism Committee, and Moira Allbritton will be asked to chair the Special Education Committee. Lisa Keller is chairing the Legislative Committee, but no regular meeting time has been set.

**Future Committee Meeting Dates:** The Executive Committee will continue to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the even months at the El Cajon Library, 201 E. Douglas Ave., El Cajon 92020. This of course will depend on the availability of the room at the library. Alternate sites will need to be considered in the event that this facility is not available.

**Old Business:** Bill mentioned that the phone number for the Regional Center in Imperial is incorrect, and he has mentioned this to Anne Featherstone before. (Post meeting note – Mary Ellen has since confirmed that the number in the 2007 Imperial Valley Directory is correct).

Bill expressed his disappointment in the cancellation of Melissa Corral's presentation at the March board meeting on the Statement of Incompatible Activities. Mary Ellen informed the committee that she had already requested an alternate take the place of Melissa, but was unable to secure a speaker. Sara informed the Executive Committee that she will raise this issue at the next board meeting (agenda item) and will make a motion to formally request a State Council presentation or locate/hire outside counsel so that board members have been given the benefit of understanding their legal responsibilities.

The Retreat Report will be sent to the entire board.

**New Business:** Sara asked that the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act be looked at regarding providing opportunities for guests to provide comment on each agenda item. What the Act states is "*To ensure public participation, the Legislature expressly afforded an opportunity to the public to speak or otherwise participate at meetings, either before or during the consideration of each agenda item*". The board has been providing opportunities for public comment at the beginning of each meeting, which is in keeping with Bagley-Keene. There is nothing prohibiting guests from also providing commentary on each agenda item if the board would like to do this.

Mary Ellen will be providing a brief overview of Bagley-Keene and Roberts Rules of Order at the beginning of the next full Board of Directors meeting, and will include handouts on each in the board packet. Lori requested guidance be provided to the board on email communication – i.e. length and frequency.

The budget deficit and its impact on services provided to individuals with developmental disabilities were discussed. The Department of Developmental Services has been tasked with achieving a \$100 million reduction in the DD budget. There will be three (3) public hearings on this issue, as well as a Stakeholder Workgroup formed to identify and agree to cost savings proposals that will avoid the

imposition of additional cuts to provider reimbursements which will irreparably harm the community service system.

Some of the suggestions made have been to consolidate two of the Developmental Centers (Fairview and Lanterman), adopt an "Employment First" policy for individuals exiting high school by requiring that they transition to supported employment programs or post secondary education, assist families to access medical insurance for some therapeutic/treatment services when appropriate, and to offer consumers/parents the option of using vouchers and self-directed services. These and other ideas, as well as the most current information available will be brought to the attention to the entire Board of Directors at the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Sara requested a press release go to the newspapers in San Diego and Imperial County with the Board of Directors election results. Mary Ellen will follow-up on this.

As a result of discussion about new board member appointments and notification, it was decided that In the future, Mary Ellen will send out an email to the board when she learns of new appointments.



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